

Monthly Rpt

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PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE GEOGRAPHIC AREA, ORR

MONTH OF JANUARY 1955

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF, GEOGRAPHIC RESEARCH

2-AD/PR

1-ST/PL

2-D/RR

3-D/CC

2-D/CP

1-D/CR

A. Accomplishments and Coordination Activities

1. The four divisions of the Geographic Area carried a sizeable workload during January. Fifty-one maps and charts were completed by the Cartography Division and in addition considerable effort was expended on this NIS program. During the same period the division accepted requests for 39 new maps and charts, thus continuing the tremendous backlog of work current in the division. The Geography Division completed seven geographic reports, among which was one study on the Territorial Administrative Divisions of the USSR, one NIS Chapter IX, and one study on the Evasion Routes in Manchuria. At the request of D/A/RR, a geographic analysis of each of the economic regions of the USSR was completed within a week's time and forwarded to that division for coordination in an over all analysis of economic regions. OCI also received five contributions to their handbook series. The Photo Intelligence Division completed five projects, all of which were of the support type and in addition made a sizeable contribution to the special project of the SA/PC/DCI. The Map Library serviced 973 requests for maps during the month and distributed 14,192 sheets in response to these requests. A total of 50,610 map sheets and 5,283 atlases and other reference materials were added to the library collection.

2. Early in the month the staff of the area briefed field personnel recruiters at a special session arranged by St/A. The total personnel needs of the area were carefully reviewed and outstanding vacancies requiring immediate recruitment were especially noted. It appears that the session was worthwhile in view of the fact that considerable interest was noted and the response to our immediate requirements by a few recruiters has increased.

3. The Chief, Geographic Research, spent several days with Chief, Map Library Division and his staff reviewing the current functioning of procurement, processing, and reference work in the library. The review of all steps

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in the day to day work of these branches pointed up areas where some time could be saved by streamlining several of the operations. Any time-saving accruing from a simplification of operations will be allotted to increasing the procurement effort by the desk officers in the Procurement Branch.

4. A functional survey is currently being conducted by the Office of the Chief, Geographic Research, to specifically ascertain the amount of time in manhours devoted to each of the functions carried out by components of the area. The results of this survey should be available during March and should further aid in a critical examination of the distribution of our expenditure of effort in terms of our responsibility.

5. Additional work was done in the preparation of the staff study on the Urban Area Program for DD/P. As of the writing of this report, this staff study has been completed and forwarded to the AD/RR for his consideration and approval. It is hoped that the recommendations which have been carefully developed out of a comprehensive study of the current situation will be accepted.

6. An obvious irritation which has developed in the Graphics Research Coordination Group in which CIA participates has made it necessary to examine our responsibilities in the field of coordinating aerial photography requirements and information. The irritation developed out of a report to the group on a matter which one agency considered to be internal policy and not the subject of discussion for the entire group. After reviewing the situation it was decided that representatives of the area should endeavor to establish a coordinating group for aerial photography similar to that already in existence for coordinating group photography. This new group would be limited in size and would include only the top representatives of the Services who can represent their agencies in policy matters in the field of aerial photography. Interest and approval of the idea have been expressed by potential participants and it appears that the group will get underway shortly.

7. The air targets materials are still collecting in the Map Library at a rapid rate. The staff study outlining this problem points out our responsibility for making this material available to CIA and at the same time our inability to keep it in sufficiently good order so that it can be readily used. If the additional person required to conduct this work in the Map Library cannot be made available in terms of a slot for recruitment within the next several weeks, I will be forced to notify appropriate officials of the Agency that it is impossible to carry out the responsibility relative to air targets materials.

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